

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
a first substrate on which a plurality of pixel electrodes are formed; ;
a second substrate on which an opposing electrode is formed; ; and
a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between said first and second substrates, said second substrate further having thereon a plurality of protrusions, each of said protrusions being positioned at a substantially central portion of a corresponding one of said pixel electrodes.
2. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first substrate has a plurality of pixels, each of said pixels being constituted by plural ones of said pixels which are interconnected with one another.
3. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said protrusions penetrates through said liquid crystal layer to reach the corresponding one of said pixel electrodes.
4. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of protrusions comprises a rod-shaped spacer extending between said first and second substrates.
5. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
at least one interposing layer formed between said plurality of protrusions and said second substrate.
6. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said protrusions comprise a cross-section having one of a trapezoidal shape, a circular shape, an ellipsoidal shape, an pentagonal shape, a hexagonal shape, an octagonal shape, and a square shape.
7. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said protrusions comprise an isotropic material and a black material.

8. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a light-shielding layer formed on said protrusions, to inhibit a leakage of light through said liquid crystal layer.
9. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said protrusions comprise one of a photo-sensitive material and an inorganic material.
10. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein cross-sections of said protrusions and cross-sections of corresponding ones of said pixel electrodes have similar shapes.
11. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said opposing electrode comprises a plurality of stripe-shaped electrodes formed perpendicularly to said plurality of pixel electrodes, an intersection of a pixel electrode in said plurality of pixel electrodes and a stripe-shaped electrode in said plurality of stripe-shaped electrodes, defining a pixel of said liquid crystal display device.
12. (New) The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein an electric field formed in said liquid crystal layer between said pixel electrode and a corresponding one of said opposing electrodes is tilted toward a center of said pixel.
13. (New) The device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said electric field causes molecules of said liquid crystal layer to be symmetrically oriented toward center of said pixel.
14. (New) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said pixel comprises a plurality of domains, each protrusion defining boundaries of said plurality of domains.
15. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pixel electrodes comprise notches formed on peripheral portions of said pixel electrodes.
16. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pixel electrodes comprise protrusions formed on peripheral portions of said pixel electrodes.

17. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pixel electrodes comprise electrode-free portions extending radially outward from centers of said pixel electrodes.
18. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pixel electrodes comprise concave portions extending radially outward from centers of said pixel electrodes.
19. (New) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
 - a plurality of pixel electrodes formed on a first substrate;
 - an opposing electrode formed on a second substrate;
 - a liquid crystal layer formed between said first and second substrates; and
 - a plurality of spacers formed on one of said first and second substrates near center portions of said plurality of pixel electrodes, respectively.
20. (New) A method of forming a liquid crystal display device, comprising:
 - forming a plurality of pixel electrodes on a first substrate;
 - forming an opposing electrode on a second substrate;
 - forming a liquid crystal layer between said first and second substrates; and
 - forming a plurality of spacers on one of said first and second substrates near center portions of said plurality of pixel electrodes, respectively.